

***Bulbophyllum jiewhoei* (Orchidaceae), a New Species of Unknown Origin**

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Abstract

Bulbophyllum jiewhoei, sp. nov. (sect. *Sestochilus*) is described. The description is based on a single, cultivated specimen. Although the provenance of the plant is unknown, it undoubtedly originates from East or South East Asia, possibly excluding Malasia.

Introduction

Most species of the orchid genus *Bulbophyllum* have little horticultural value and are grown and appreciated by a small group of aficionados only. Some species of sect. *Sestochilus*, however, have found a wider audience as curiosities that occasionally reward the owner with flowers of unusual colour and shape. Examples are *B. dearei* Rehb. f., *B. lobbii* Lindl., *B. macranthum* Lindl., and *B. patens* King. Earlier this year, a plant representing a new species of sect. *Sestochilus* was brought to the attention of the authors. Although its flowers are somewhat smaller than the species mentioned above, it certainly has potential as a miniature orchid for the hothouse. It is described below.

In the diagnosis below, the type specimen is cited with the abbreviation 'SBG-O', short for 'Singapore Botanic Gardens Orchid Collection', a number series introduced for the administration of the collection of living orchids in the Gardens.

***Bulbophyllum jiewhoei* J.J. Verm. & O'Byrne, sp. nov.** — Fig. 1.

Bulbophyllum jiewhoei J.J. Verm. & O'Byrne, a *Bulbophyllo griffithii* Rehb.f. et *B. yunnanensi* Rolfe sepalis petalisque acuminatis, labello auricula carenti differt. — TYPUS: Origin unknown, SBG-O 86 (SING, holo.).

Rhizome creeping, 4—5 mm diam.; bracts soon withering, only fibres remaining. *Roots* present along the entire rhizome. *Pseudobulbs* 1-leaved (see note below), ellipsoid or ovoid, 0.8—1.7 cm apart, 1.4—2 by 0.8—1 cm, somewhat flattened, obtusely 5—6-angled. *Petiole* 9—16 mm long. *Leaf blade* elliptic to ovate, 6—11 by 1.9—2.7 cm, index (length/width) 2.7—4.8, obtuse, very thick, midrib not prominent. *Inflorescence* single, 7—8 cm, 1-flowered. *Peduncle* 2—3.7 cm; bracts 3, the longest c. 10 mm. *Floral bracts* ovate, c. 13 mm long, acuminate. *Pedicel and ovary* c. 20 mm long. *Flowers* widely opening. *Median sepal* ovate, c. 24 by 10 mm, index c. 2.4, acuminate, thin, glabrous. *Lateral sepals* oblique, with a slight twist towards the tip so that the lower margin turns upwards, c. 41 by 12 mm, index c. 3.4, slightly thickened towards the tip; otherwise as the median sepal. *Petals* oblique, elliptic, c. 19 by 7 mm, index c. 2.7, acuminate, margin crose-papillose; thin; surface glabrous. *Lip* recurved approx. half-way, general outline triangular, c. 9 by 4.5 mm, index c. 2, obtuse, thick, glabrous; adaxially slightly concave near the base, with 2 parallel ridges starting near its base and continuing over 2/3 of its length, with the median part channelled towards its base; abaxially with a distinct, retuse median ridge. *Column* from ovary to the tip of the steldia c. 5.5 mm; stigma not protruding at its base, elliptic; column foot without accessories. *Steldia* triangular, c. 1.4 mm, acute, with an obliquely forwards directed, deltoid, obtuse tooth along the upper margin, with an inconspicuous, rounded wing along the lower margin. *Anther* abaxially with an obtuse ridge near its base; front margin somewhat drawn out, erose, somewhat concave. *Pollinia* 4, of about equal length, all flattened but the inner pair more so than the outer; stipes absent. *Colours*: pseudobulbs olive green; leaves dark green. Flowers creamy white, slightly greenish in the centre. Median sepal and petals stained with purple, particularly towards the margins, and with purple spots aligned along the veins; lateral sepals similarly but much more sparsely marked with purple; lip and column face finely stained with purple. Flowers with a somewhat spicy scent.

Distribution and habitat: unknown. Undoubtedly from East or South East Asia, possibly excluding Malesia.

Notes: Part of a small species group within sect. *Sestochilus* characterised by 1- or 2-flowered inflorescences and finely erose or papillose petals: *B. griffithii* Rehb. f. (India), *B. lasiochilum* Parish & Rehb. f. (Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia), and *B. yunnanense* Rolfe (China). *Bulbophyllum griffithii* and *B. yunnanense* are most similar, but differ in having obtuse to acute sepals and petals, and in having a lip with small lateral lobes.

The plant from which the type specimen was taken had some

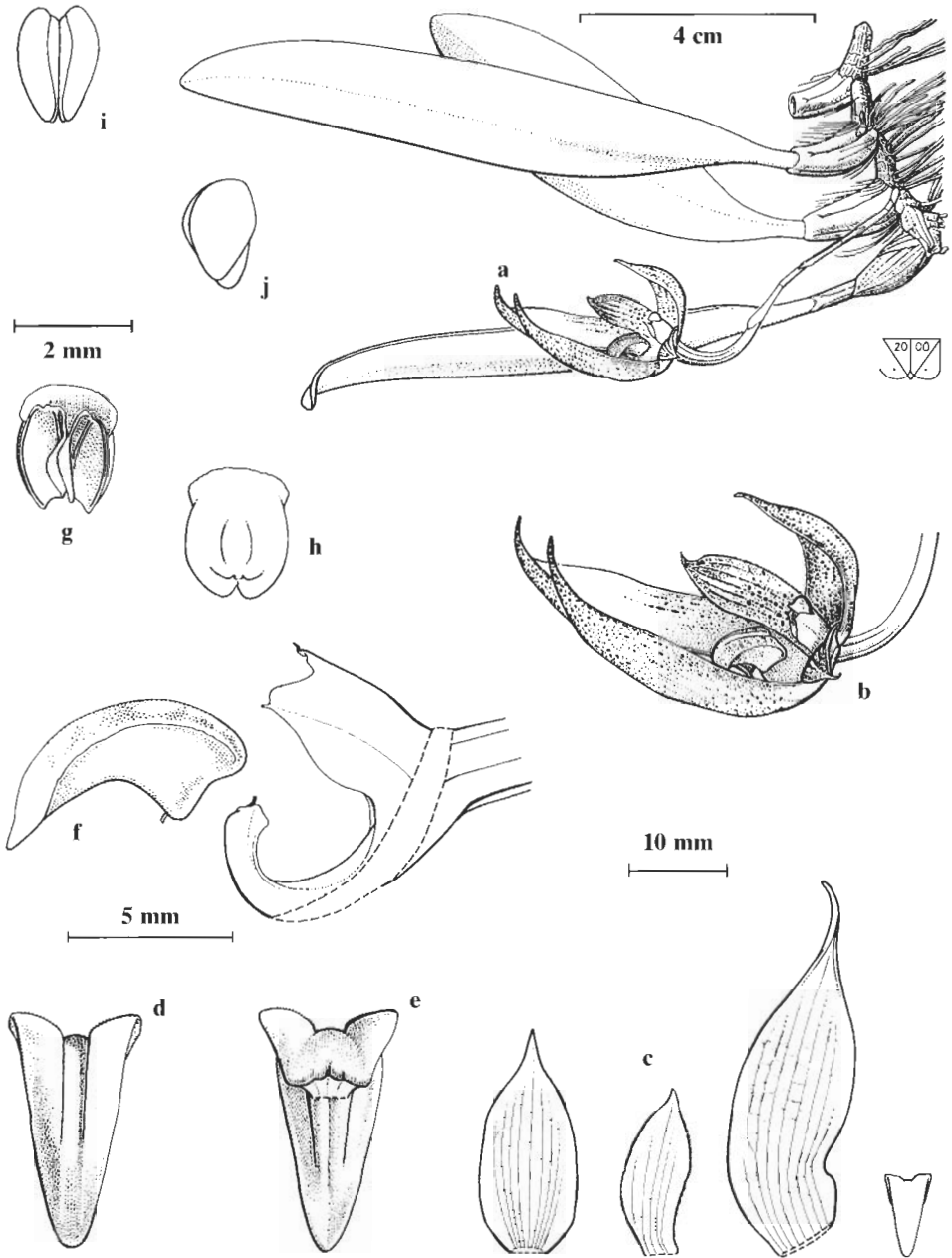


Figure 1. *Bulbophyllum jiewhoei* J.J. Verm. & O'Byrne

a. Habit; b. Flower; c. Flower analysis, from left to right: median sepal, petal, lateral sepal, lip; d. Lip, adaxial side; e. Lip, abaxial side; f. Column and lip, lateral view; g. Anther, adaxial side; h. Anther, abaxial side; i. Pollinia; j. Pollinia, single pair. All from *SBG-O 86* (living plant, spirit sample).

pseudobulbs with a rudimentary or even fully developed second leaf. This is not regarded as characteristic of the species, but as an aberration as this occasionally occurs among the 1-leaved *Bulbophyllum* species that we have in cultivation.

The species is known from a single, cultivated specimen of unknown origin. It grows well outdoors in a shaded place in Singapore, which has a hot, damp climate for most of the year.

Named after Mr. John Tan Jiew Hoe (Singapore), who bought the plant at a local orchid show.